

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00PM – MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2008

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
HOVE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Oxley (Chairman); Councillors Carden, Marsh, Morgan (OS), Randall, Smart, Simson, Wakefield-Jarrett and Wells.

Sussex Police: Chief Superintendent Paul Pearce, Sergeant Peter Castleton.

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service: Chris Large (Deputy Chief Fire Officer), Craig Thomson (Borough Commander for the City of Brighton and Hove).

Ryan Haines (Probation Service)

Communities of Interest: Bob Cristofoli (Brighton & Hove Mediation Service), John Stevens, (Tenant Representative), Derek Peacock, (St. James St. Community Safety Forum), Bill Gandey & Sylvia Howell (Bevendean LAT), Faith Matyszak MBE (Racial Harassment Forum & Whitehawk Community Development Project), Chris El-Shabba (Whitehawk Crime Prevention Forum), Ted Harman & George Brooker (Coldean LAT), Rev. Stephen Terry (Portland & Clarendon LAT), Councillor Melanie Davis (Clarendon LAT), Paul Tilley (Community & Voluntary Sector Forum), Francis Tonks (OPC)

Officers: Linda Beanlands (Head of Community Safety), Judith Macho (Assistant Director, Public Safety), Ruth Condon, (Research and Performance Monitoring Officer), Simon Court (Anti-Social Behaviour Solicitor), John Irvine (LGBT Community Safety Officer), Aaron Devereaux (Anti-Social Behaviour Team), Oliver Dixon (Lawyer), John Patience (Drug and Alcohol Team) and Martin Warren (Committee Administrator).

Guests: Gail Grey (CEO Women's Refuge)

Apologies: Councillor Kennedy

PART ONE**35. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS****35A Declarations of Substitutes**

35A.1 Councillor Wakefield-Jarrett declared that she was attending the meeting as a Substitute Member for Councillor Kennedy.

35B Declarations of Interest

35B.1 There were none.

35C Exclusion of Press and Public

35C.1 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A, Part 5A, Section 100A(4) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

35.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

36 MINUTES

36.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair.

37. Chairman's Communications

37.1 Chairman noted the launch of 'Operation Blakey'; a text message service for passengers to report problems on the city's buses. Passengers would be able to report rowdy or nuisance behaviour by texting 'REPORT' to 60060, with a description of the incident.

37.2 Chairman noted minute 28.3. regarding hate crime against disabled persons. He commented that work was ongoing in compiling information in regard to this and would be incorporated into the existing Hate Crime Strategy.

37.3 Chairman noted the preparation of the 'Safe in the City' website. This would be launched in April 2008 and would be a useful resource for community groups.

38. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

38.1 There were none.

39. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

39.1 Francis Tonks was in dialogue with the Fire Service as regards to fire safety at the Post Office in Churchill Square. He offered to report back to a future meeting, the comments of the Fire Service.

40. FUTURE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

40.1 The Forum considered a report of the Head of Community Safety that noted a number of consecutive pieces of legislation and protocol expected to change the role of the Community Safety Forum within 2008. These included; the review of the Crime and Disorder Act, the Police and Justice Act 2006, Part 5 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Review of Policing (Sir Ronnie Flanagan Review) (for copy see minute book).

40.2 The Forum noted amended versions of pages 16 & 17 of the report, tabled due to a printing error.

40.3 Councillor Morgan was concerned that the efficacy of the Forum may be adversely affected if it were twinned with another body. Chairman recognised this and noted the weight and importance currently afforded to the Forum, he did not wish this to diminish.

40.4 Councillor Marsh noted the engagement the council had engendered with its communities and the recent expansion of the Community Safety Forum, she was concerned that this relationship could be diluted. Chairman commented that the intention was to maintain the momentum established by expanding the Forum and to capitalise on established long-term relationships. He encouraged the Forum to share any concerns or ideas with himself or the Head of Community Safety.

40.5 Derek Peacock asked if the proposed scrutiny function of the revised Forum would enable members to invite experts to meetings and debate issues. Chairman said that it was the intention to operate this model when discharging the Forums' scrutiny function. It would be the duty of the relevant Cabinet Member to implement any decisions that

were reached.

- 40.6 Councillor Randall echoed the comments made by Councillors March and Morgan. He noted the proposed scope for 'mainstreaming' functions related to crime and disorder, asking if Government were making any additional funding available to support this intention. Head of Community Safety noted that much of this duty was already exercised by the council. The new legislation afforded the opportunity to develop this work and the council did have capacity to make this possible.
- 40.7 Paul Tilley asked how the changing role of the Forum would be disseminated to the wider community and stakeholders. Chairman commented that the council would be making full use of local media and IT to share the information with as wider range of people as possible. Information would also be posted at Libraries and other information points across the city. Paul noted that there existed many informal networks of community groups and representatives who could help.
- 40.8 John Stevens noted that many people did not have access to IT and suggested providing information at local Housing Offices.
- 40.9 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

41. REPORT FROM EAST SUSSEX FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

- 41.1 The Forum received a presentation from the Deputy Chief Fire Officer in respect of Integrated Risk Management Planning (See Appendix A)
- 41.2 Paul Tilley noted the benefits of the 'Life Course' scheme which helped potential young offenders. This was run by the Fire Service and had been extremely effective in reducing repeat offences. Deputy Chief Fire Officer (DCFO) noted that there was a 95% success rate in relation to the scheme. He noted a similar success with the 'Right' scheme which helped young people to appreciate traffic issues.
- 41.3 John Stevens thanked DCFO for his presentation and noted comments about assisting disabled people in fire emergencies. DCFO noted that the key to making living environments safer for disabled or vulnerable people was to plan buildings with safety in mind. The provision of sprinklers was a safe and cost effective way of maximising safety for people who might have problems vacating a building.

- 41.4 Councillor Carden noted that there would be passing out parades for people who had completed a recent 'Life Course' on 29th March at Hove Fire Station. Borough Commander added that another would take place on Friday 11th April.
- 41.5 The Forum thanked DCFO for his presentation.
- 41.6 **RESOLVED** – That the presentation be noted.
- 42 STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF CRIME AND DISORDER AND NEW COMMUNITY SAFETY, CRIME REDUCTION AND DRUGS STRATEGY 2008-2011**
- 42.1 The Forum received a presentation from Sergeant Peter Castleton and the Head of Community safety in respect of new legislation and protocols regarding community safety (See Appendix B).
- 42.2 Reverend Terry was pleased to note the prominence given to the LGBT community and to sex workers. He was encouraged to see that there was a duty to effectively police and support these groups. He noted that the eleven key priorities identified for community safety were of equal rank and not set in a hierarchy.
- 42.3 Derek Peacock noted the new duties relating to trafficking and sexual assault. He asked how base line data was compiled when new duties were brought into being. Head of Community Safety explained that there existed data in relation to some of these offences and by working with partners and extrapolating data from previous operations (notably operation 'Pentameter') a base line could be established.
- 42.4 Councillor Randall noted that requests had been made previously to establish a register of perpetrators of Domestic Violence, he suggested that this was something that the Forum should consider and that, similarly registers could be established for LGBT hate crime and BME crime.
- 42.5 42.5. Head of Community Safety advised that a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment panel was in place, which through monthly meetings, monitored high risk cases and agreed actions to be taken in order to deal with offenders and protect victims.
- 42.6 Councillor Randall noted the view of the Turner Forum, who considered the new financial circumstances a disadvantage to their youth work. He noted the overall

benefit of working with young people and the larger savings that were achieved by intervening early where there were possibilities of offending. He hoped that any funding shortfall would be made good by the council.

- 42.7 Head of Community Safety noted that officers would be working closely with Children and Young Peoples Trust Board on issues related to crime prevention work with young people.
- 42.8 Councillor Simson noted that work was ongoing to install CCTV in city taxis. Sergeant Castleton commented that he had been in discussion with the Head of Environmental Health & Licensing in attempting to support and progress this initiative.
- 42.9 Councillor Simson commented that work with the voluntary sector was vital to reducing crime and disorder. This point was acknowledged by the Head of Community Safety, who noted the many agencies and groups that worked in partnership with the council.
- 42.10 In response to a query from Councillor Marsh the Chairman commented that under the new constitutional arrangements the information sharing aspect of the Forum would be reviewed. Chairman was keen that openness and transparency of the current arrangements were maintained.
- 42.11 Paul Tilley asked if there was currently a citywide ban on street drinking and, if so, who enforced it. Head of Community safety confirmed that there was a citywide ban on street drinking; this was enforced by the police. It gave them powers to request that persons stop drinking if it was felt that their drinking was likely to cause anti-social behaviour.
- 42.12 Paul asked if it was possible to secure funding from Section 106 Agreements to facilitate public safety in parks (for instance improved lighting). Head of Community Safety noted that the Environmental Improvement Team had been successful in securing funding through this route and continued to pursue monies.
- 42.13 Paul noted the success of 'Football in the City', a scheme run by a Registered Social Landlord. This had cost approximately 50K and had been very successful in reducing youth offending, for every pound spent many more were saved in preventing crime and disorder.

- 42.14 Paul asked how the distribution of the Area Based Grant was determined. Head of Community Safety explained that the distribution of the grant was in accordance with the crime and safety priorities which were selected from a number of criteria, one of which were the concerns and priorities which were identified by local communities and communities of interest.
- 42.15 **RESOLVED** – That the presentation be noted.
- 43** **PERFORMANCE:** Community safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy, 2005-08: Crime Trends and Performance.
- 43.1 The Forum considered a report of the Head of Community that offered graphical information regarding crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove (for copy see minute book).
- 43.2 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.
- 44. SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2007**
- 44.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes be noted.
- 44A SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2007**
- 44A.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes be noted.
- 45. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2007**
- 45.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes be noted.

The meeting concluded at 5.55pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2008

